



Department of **Planning,**
Lands and Heritage

Your ref:
Our ref: P26360, P26383
Enquiries: Kelly Fleming / 6551 8002

Ms Kate Hryczyszyn
Environmental Officer
Abandoned Mines Branch
Geological Survey and Resource Strategy Division
Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety
kate.hryczyszyn@dmirs.wa.gov.au

Dear Ms Hryczyszyn

Government Heritage Property Disposal Process
P26383 Donnybrook Goldfield [incl. P26360 Donnybrook Gold Mining Area,
West of Upper Capel Rd, Argyle Forest Block/Boyanup State Forest]

Thank you for referring the above place, on behalf of the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, to the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage under the provisions of the Government Heritage Property Disposal Process (GPHDP).

After careful consideration of a preliminary review I have determined, as the delegate of the Heritage Council, that while *P26383 Donnybrook Goldfield [incl. P26360 Donnybrook Gold Mining Area, West of Upper Capel Rd, Argyle Forest Block/Boyanup State Forest]* may have some cultural heritage value, it is unlikely to have the cultural heritage significance required to meet the condition for entry in the State Register under section 38 of the *Heritage Act 2018*. A preliminary review, essentially an initial assessment, allows for a determination to be made as to whether a place warrants full assessment. On this occasion, it has been determined that *P26383 Donnybrook Goldfield [incl. P26360 Donnybrook Gold Mining Area, West of Upper Capel Rd, Argyle Forest Block/Boyanup State Forest]* does not do so. A copy of the preliminary review is enclosed for your information.

No further referrals under the Government Heritage Property Disposal Process, or s.73 of the *Heritage Act 2018*, are required on the part of the Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety in terms of the proposed remediation works.

I have informed the Shire of Donnybrook Balingup of this decision and provided them with a copy of the preliminary review. They may consider its content in terms of their Local Government Heritage Survey and any Heritage List associated with their planning scheme.

If you would like to discuss this decision, please contact Principal Heritage Officer Kelly Fleming, at the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage on (08) 6551 8002.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ben Harvey". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent 'B' and 'H'.

Ben Harvey
Executive Director Heritage Services
Enc.

27 July 2020

cc. Mr Tom Kenneally, Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, South West Region Headquarters, Cnr Dodson Road and South Western Highway, BUNBURY WA 6231, tom.kenneally@dbca.wa.gov.au

cc. Director, Land Management South, Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage, Locked Bag 2506 PERTH WA 6000, proposals@dplh.wa.gov.au



HERITAGE
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PRELIMINARY REVIEW

HCWA Place No.	P26383
Place Name Other name(s)	Donnybrook Goldfield
Location/street address	A triangular shaped area stretching from the southern end of the current Donnybrook Townsite, down to approximately current-day Byron and Torridor Roads.
Land description	As above

Owners	Various private and State Government
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Local Government	Shire of Donnybrook-Balingup
Local Heritage Survey (formerly known as a Municipal Heritage Inventory or MHI)	Not Included in LHS/MHI

OTHER LISTINGS/REFERENCES
Statutory
Aboriginal Site (<i>under Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972</i>) – ID19795 Preston River (Registered Site) Heritage List (Local Government Planning Scheme) - No National Heritage List – No Commonwealth Heritage List – No
Non-Statutory
Other Heritage Place (<i>under Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972</i>) - ID24402 Mill Brook; ID17976 Donnybrook Campsite; ID28187 Ngalan Mia [Our Place]; ID5820 Donnybrook Classified by the National Trust – P12243 Old Donnybrook Goldfield (Trigwell's Farm) Register of National Estate - No

VALUES
<ul style="list-style-type: none">The place represents the only gazetted goldfield in the south west of the State which to some degree prosperous during the c.1890 gold rush era

- The place has the potential to yield information about the mining techniques, and lives of the miners in the South West of Western Australia

PHYSICAL EVIDENCE

Summary

Date/s of Construction	c.1897-1904; c.1935
Architectural Style	N/A
Original Use	Gold mining
Current Use	Nil

Description of the Place

The Donnybrook Goldfield comprises scattered mining shafts of varying extents and depths. Some of the shafts have in-situ timber stoping but the images do not show any above-surface fabric such as poppet heads, winding mechanisms or other machinery. However, a number of web reference to Old Goldfields Farm and Hunter's Venture in Donnybrook do suggest some mining equipment may remain extant, some of which has been incorporated into farm stays, cafes or other tourism ventures. Some of these are also noted as being reconstructions.¹ In addition, the information about the goldfields suggests that many of the miners lived on the leases so there is likely to be remnant archaeological material relating to these settlements, such as tent pads, refuse, and other remnant fabric.

DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE

Significant Associations	Architect: Not applicable Builder: Not applicable Owners: Various Other: Modest Maryanski; W.G. Brookman
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The first occupants of the Donnybrook area, collectively referred to as Nyungar, are from the Kaneang (Kaniyang) Nyungar language group.² Archaeological dating evidence suggests occupation of the wider South West region of Australia commenced at least 47,000 years before present.³ This way of life began to be disrupted with the arrival of European colonists.

The first European settlers in the Donnybrook region were a group of Irish men and their servants who established a farm approximately one kilometre north of the present Donnybrook townsite in 1842.⁴ The endeavour was short-lived however, with failed attempts at breeding horses, cattle and sheep resulting in the settlement being abandoned by 1843.⁵ Other settlers moved into the area after 1850, with a focus on the Preston River and the region saw continuous occupation from this period.⁶

¹ Donnybrook Goldfield (Hunters Venture mine), Donnybrook-Balingup Shire, Western Australia <https://www.mindat.org/loc-251520.html>. Accessed 25 March 2020.

² AusAnthrop: research. Resources & documentation. AusAnthrop Australian Aboriginal tribal database. Accessed 20 February 2013. http://www.ausanthrop.net/resources/ausanthrop_db/detail.php?id_search=204

³ Goode, B & Harris, J. An Aboriginal Heritage Survey of the Proposed Shotts Industrial Estate: Collie Western Australia, 2009. p. 38.

⁴ Frost, A.C. (1976) Green Gold: A History of Donnybrook WA, 1842 to 1974. Donnybrook Balingup Shire Council, Donnybrook Western Australia. p. 1.

⁵ Frost, A.C. (1976) Green Gold: A History of Donnybrook WA, 1842 to 1974. Donnybrook Balingup Shire Council, Donnybrook Western Australia. p. 2.

⁶ HCWA Assessment Documentation for P727 Donnybrook Post Office. p. 3.

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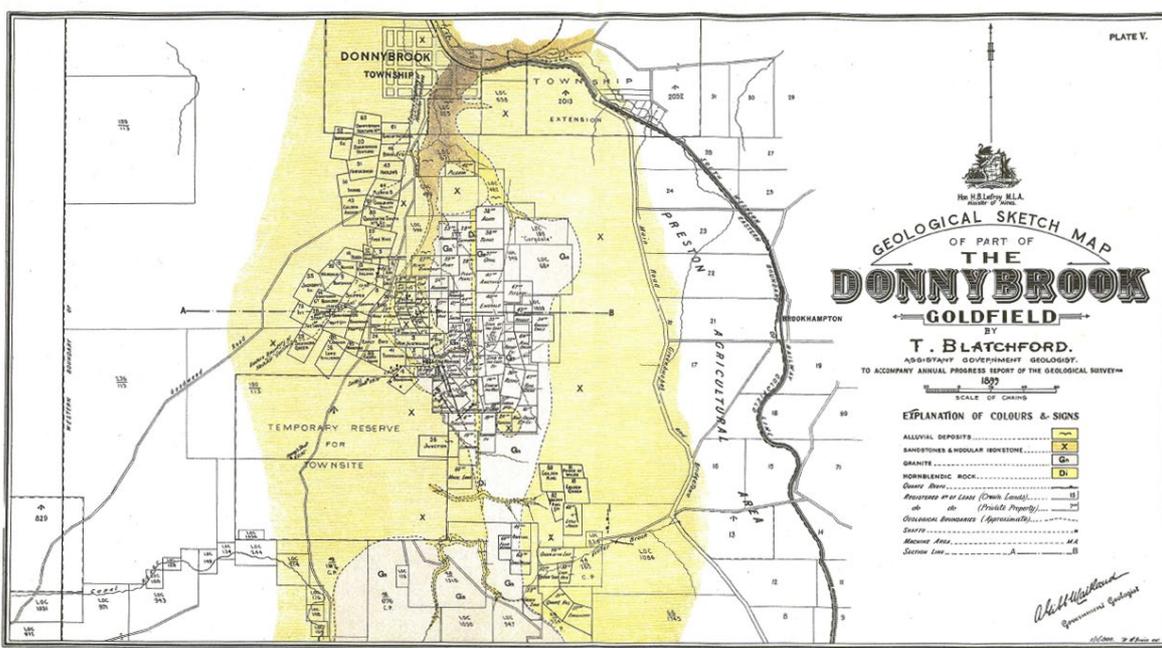
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In 1893 the Boyanup-Donnybrook railway line was opened and in 1896-98 the line was extended to Bridgetown.⁷ The townsite of Donnybrook was gazetted on 12 October 1894.⁸ Although there were attempts to find gold in the south west region in the 1870s and 1880s, these proved unsuccessful and a 'salting'⁹ episode in Dandalup had made some people dubious about the potential for gold in the south west of WA.¹⁰

However, gold was eventually found in 1897, about four kilometres south west of the Donnybrook townsite.¹¹ These finds, attributed to R. L Hunter, attracted further prospectors to the area and a number of claims were pegged.¹² At the end of 1898 Assistant Government Geologist Blatchford visited the field to investigate the mining operations to determine whether it should be proclaimed a goldfield.¹³ A further report on the field the following year suggests its prospects were relatively positive.¹⁴

A shaft was dug and a reef located which yielded 25 tonnes of ore which returned 56 grams to the tonne. This resulted in a rush and August 1899 saw an influx of people coming to the town, including some notable names such as W.G. Brookman, Mayor of Perth, who was one of the larger lease holders on the field.¹⁵

As prospecting continued there were calls for the area to be declared a goldfield, and on 17 November the Donnybrook Goldfield was gazetted, to take effect from 27 November 1899.¹⁶ The Warden for the Greenbushes tin field was given jurisdiction over Donnybrook. The map of the goldfield included a site for a town indicating the optimism for the field.¹⁷



7 HCWA Assessment Documentation for P5012 Donnybrook Railway Precinct. p. 5.
 8 HCWA Assessment Documentation for P727 Donnybrook Post Office. p. 4.
 9 The practice of scattering gold or silver ore from a productive mine in an unproductive one, or its samples, to give the impression it will be productive to potential purchasers or inventors. *West Australian*, Saturday 6 May, p.10.
 10 Frost, A.C. (1976) Green Gold: A History of Donnybrook WA, 1842 to 1974. Donnybrook Balingup Shire Council, Donnybrook Western Australia. p.55.
 11 Frost, A.C. (1976) Green Gold: A History of Donnybrook WA, 1842 to 1974. Donnybrook Balingup Shire Council, Donnybrook Western Australia. p.56-57
 12 Blatchford, T (1899) Geological Survey Annual Report, 1899.
 13 Blatchford, T (1900) Geological Survey Annual Report, 1900.
 14 Frost, A.C. (1976) Green Gold: A History of Donnybrook WA, 1842 to 1974. Donnybrook Balingup Shire Council, Donnybrook Western Australia. P.56-57.
 15 *Government Gazette* No. 56, 17 November 1899. 3774.
 16 Frost, A.C. (1976) Green Gold: A History of Donnybrook WA, 1842 to 1974. Donnybrook Balingup Shire Council, Donnybrook Western Australia. p.59.

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Blatchford, T (1899) Geological Sketch Map of part of the Donnybrook Goldfield. Annual Progress report of the Geological Survey.

Yields generated some interest and Polish geologist and mining engineer Modest Maryanski came to the field, eventually taking up the majority of the profitable leases in the area,¹⁸ and floating a large English Company with German financing known as Donnybrook Goldfields Ltd. with the Queen of the South being its most prosperous lease.¹⁹

By 1900 almost 318 tonnes of ore had been extracted which yielded 1,398 grams of gold (494 ounces). However, the town's fortunes waxed and waned, and the road to the goldfield remained in a poor state. In July the Minister for Mines H.B Lefroy visited the field and promised government assistance and by November a public battery had been opened.²⁰

In early 1903 the Donnybrook goldfield still appeared to be progressing well. However a visit to the field later that same year by Dr P. Krusch, a geologist and professor of mining from Berlin, appears to have been its death knell.²¹ Dr Krusch's report was unfavourable and by July 1904 Donnybrook Goldfields Ltd. was wound up.²² Mines Department records suggest that approximately 950 ounces of gold was won from the Donnybrook goldfield between 1898 and 1905.²³

With the construction of the Donnybrook-Katanning railway line, Donnybrook became a junction station with further extensions from Bridgetown to Jardee in 1911 and Pemberton in 1914.²⁴ Donnybrook continued to develop with a number of timber mills established in the district. The rail network allowed access to more distant markets. The fruit growing industry in the Donnybrook region also expanded during this period.²⁵

The gold mines were reworked in 1935 but after some initial excitement the field again was deserted, though another 102 ounces were reportedly extracted.²⁶

Further exploration occurred in the 1980s with a consortium undertaking a reconnaissance drilling program. This does not appear to have resulted in the goldfield being further developed.²⁷

COMPARATIVE INFORMATION

A search of the Historic Heritage database indicates that the following places, which represent gold mining landscapes or notable elements within a former gold mining area, are on the State Register:

- P14198 *Haley's Comet Gold Mine, Marble Bar* (1936) – significant due to the treatment and processing plant at the place being rare as a near complete example of an inter-war plant in Western Australia, whilst the buildings, equipment and elements that comprise the place are of individual significance and together form a landmark

¹⁸ *West Australian*, Thursday 3 August 1899, p.3.

¹⁹ Frost, A.C. (1976) *Green Gold: A History of Donnybrook WA, 1842 to 1974*. Donnybrook Balingup Shire Council, Donnybrook Western Australia. p.61-63.

²⁰ Frost, A.C. (1976) *Green Gold: A History of Donnybrook WA, 1842 to 1974*. Donnybrook Balingup Shire Council, Donnybrook Western Australia. p.60.

²¹ Frost, A.C. (1976) *Green Gold: A History of Donnybrook WA, 1842 to 1974*. Donnybrook Balingup Shire Council, Donnybrook Western Australia. p.66-67.

²² Frost, A.C. (1976) *Green Gold: A History of Donnybrook WA, 1842 to 1974*. Donnybrook Balingup Shire Council, Donnybrook Western Australia. p.66.

²³ Frost, A.C. (1976) *Green Gold: A History of Donnybrook WA, 1842 to 1974*. Donnybrook Balingup Shire Council, Donnybrook Western Australia. p.66.

²⁴ HCWA Assessment Documentation for P5012 Donnybrook Railway Precinct. p. 7; Gunzberg, Adrian & Austin, Jeff, *Rails Through the Bush*, Light Railway Research Society of Australia, Melbourne, 1997, pp. 206-207.

²⁵ HCWA Assessment Documentation for P727 Donnybrook Post Office. p. 4.

²⁶ Frost, A.C. (1976) *Green Gold: A History of Donnybrook WA, 1842 to 1974*. Donnybrook Balingup Shire Council, Donnybrook Western Australia. p.66.

²⁷ Register of Australian Mining, 1983-84, p.177; West Coast Holdings Limited, 'Donnybrook Prospect: Annual Report Prospecting Licence P 70/33 and Gold Mining Lease 70/243-261'. D. I. Calmers, Perth, January 1984.

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gold mining industrial environment associated with the significant history of gold mining in the Pilbara in the 1930s.

- P1459 *Gwalia Townsite Precinct* (1896) - is a rare surviving example of a West Australian mining town, including a rare, cohesive group of goldfields vernacular dwellings with no infill development, which demonstrates a distinctive way of life associated with mining and prospecting. The place is significant for its association with mining operations at Gwalia between 1898 and 1963, in particular with the Sons of Gwalia mine, one of the major underground gold mines of Australia, and is indicative of the development of the Australian goldfields and the associated social conditions for miners.
- P627 *Great Fingall Mine Office (fmr)* [1902] - a unique demonstration of the combination of mine office and assay room purposely built for a prosperous mining company during Western Australia's gold boom. The growth of the town of Day Dawn was largely a consequence of the wealth produced from the Great Fingall Mine, which operated between 1898 and 1918. The mine office, the only substantial building still standing in the former Day Dawn townsite, is a reminder of the historic importance of the mine and Day Dawn in the mining of the Murchison region and it is an important reminder of the cycle of growth and decline of mining towns associated with the State's gold boom.
- P5507 *Wiluna Mine Manager's House* (1929) - a single storey mud block and timber framed residence, with roughcast render finished walls and a corrugated iron gambrel roof which was once part of a settlement which comprises ruins and archaeological sites. Constructed in 1929 as the residence for the General Manager of Wiluna Gold Mines at the period the company was making a significant contribution to the national economy producing gold and arsenic, it is one of the few substantial tangible reminders of this period of Wiluna's history. It is a rare extant example of an Inter-War mine manager's residence, and is located near the most renowned inter-war mining development in Australia.
- P3311 *King Battery* (1901) - this industrial archaeological site, containing the physical remnants of a 20-head gold processing battery and cyanide plant, is a rare example of a traditional stamp battery, a type of processing plant that has virtually disappeared from mining sites. The place includes a cyanide plant more sophisticated than those commonly built at the State batteries and the tailings wheel pillars represent the State's only surviving evidence of a type of bulk material handling that was once fairly common on Western Australia's goldfields.

The following places, most of which are associated with gold mining with the exception of Gwalia (primarily copper and lead, and one of the first mining areas in the State), are on the Heritage Council's Assessment Program:

- P4226 *Gwalia Precinct, Northampton* (1859-1913) – is a non-contiguous historic mining precinct representing some of the early attempts at exploiting WA's mineral resources, and comprising ruins, archaeological sites and a cemetery, including Gwalia Mine, Gwalia Church and Cemetery, Stone Cottages of the Gwalia Village, Stone Boundary Walls, First Railway Station Site (1879), Old Gwalia School, Second Railway Station Site (1913), and archaeological deposits at Camp Hill.
- P3690 *Old Stone Huts & Associated Mine Shafts & Workings, Lake Austin* (1895) – a mining landscape comprising dry stone random rubble ironstone huts surrounded by numerous mine shafts, ruins of industrial workings, and archaeological sites.
- P6560 *Mainland Ruins* (1897) – a mining landscape comprising various stone house ruins, archaeological sites, and foundations of mine workings.

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- P16341 Kanowna Townsite (1894) – a former mining town comprising archaeological sites, an amphitheatre, fire station, and a cemetery with 50 identifiable graves.
- P16321 Broad Arrow Townsite (1896) – a former mining town comprising a railway water tower, the Broad Arrow Tavern and three Fettleers Cottages.
- P16605 Davyhurst Townsite (1900) – located south west of Menzies, the only remaining evidence of the townsite is the cemetery, which contains approx. 50 identified graves.
- P7255 Hannan’s North Heritage Mine (1905) – a mining landscape comprising four headframes (only one in its original location), an ore bin, with various reconstructed buildings associated with goldmining that have been relocated to the site. The steel caged lift gives access to tourists at the 36 metre level of the mine shaft.
- P1281 Hannan Street Precinct (1890) – the streetscape of the precinct makes a valuable contribution to the townscape of Kalgoorlie and contains many fine architectural examples representative of the gold boom period.
- P16772 Kookynie Townsite (1899) – a mining town comprising the Grand Hotel, ruins of the Cosmopolitan Hotel, the Old Cosmopolitan Mining Office, ruins of the National Hotel and ruins of the Paddy Hotel. Seven kilometres north of the town is Niagra Dam.
- P2352 Sandstone Townsite Group (1906) – established as the centre for mining in the local area, the town rapidly developed with many government and private buildings being erected. The gold boom was however short lived and its population quickly declined in the 1910s and 1920s. The place comprises the National Hotel, Warden's Court and Offices (fmr), Black Range Church, Sandstone Post Office and Quarters, School Teacher's House (fmr), Police Quarters (fmr), Railway Goods Shed, and dwellings in Thaduna and Payne Street, and a Store. Rare as an extant Mid West mining town that has survived extreme periods of growth and decline, the sparse arrangement of low-scale individual elements within a flat red-dirt landscape creates an evocative visual impression of the difficulties and remoteness of Western Australian goldfields life.
- P13076 Whim Creek (1888) – an early gold mining area comprising a variety of structures and artefacts, ranging from highly degraded concrete foundations to a nearly intact pumping machine.

The above places are only representative of the many places in the State that address this theme. During the gold mining era of the late nineteenth to late twentieth-century, numerous goldfields were gazetted. The Department of Mines Annual Reports for 1899 and 1900 list 17 gazetted goldfields, some of which are still being mined today, which were associated with numerous towns and settlements.

Conclusions

The above indicates that while *Donnybrook Goldfield* is representative of the story of gold mining in Western Australia, its location in the South West of the State makes it anomalous and therefore it is not a good representative example.

SOURCES	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See footnotes
OTHER COMMENTS	
	Nil

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PENDING DEVELOPMENT

The Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety intends to undertake remediation work to make some of the abandoned mines in the area safe.